



City of Ridgecrest Police Department

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Ronald N. Strand, Chief of Police

Press Release

DATE OF INCIDENT: ONGOING

TYPE OF INCIDENT: ABC GRANT AWARD

The Ridgecrest Police Department has been awarded a grant exceeding \$39,000 from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC). This grant is administered through the Grant Assistance Program (GAP) and runs from July 01, 2015 through June 30, 2016 (Fiscal Year 15/16). Several area law enforcement agencies will be participating in grant activities/operations as well.

Consumption of alcoholic beverages by persons under 21 years of age is heavily associated with crimes such as driving under the influence (DUI), batteries, sexual assaults, and other alcohol related incidents.

The Ridgecrest Police Department has identified four main methods in which offending minors obtain alcohol:

- Minor purchases alcohol from off-sale establishments.
- "Shoulder Tap"- Adult purchases alcohol for minor at or near an off-sale establishment.
- Another minor or adult gives alcohol to minor.
- Minor steals alcohol.

The Ridgecrest Police Department, with assistance from ABC will be conducting several operations as well as public and business education to reduce minor access to alcohol. The activities include:

- **LEAD** (Licensee Education on Alcohol and Drugs)
The LEAD Program is a free, voluntary prevention and education program for retail licensees, their employees, and applicants. Its mission is to provide high quality, effective, and educationally sound training on alcohol responsibility and the law. The curriculum is designed for licensees, managers, and employees.
- **IMPACT** (Informed Merchants Preventing Alcohol-Related Crime Tendencies)
The IMPACT Program is a prevention and education program. Its main objective is to teach licensees how they can help reduce alcohol-related crime. It is designed as a crime preventive approach in a relaxed atmosphere of cooperation between merchants and law enforcement officers. During an IMPACT Inspection, officers remind licensees of the responsibilities and accountability associated with the sale of alcohol. The officers also inspect licensed premises for compliance with State and local laws. If a licensee is not in compliance, the officers will tell the licensee or employee on duty what issues need to be addressed and provide copies of any laws or rules. Licensees must then correct any problems. Later, officers will conduct follow-up visits.

RONALD N. STRAND - Chief of Police
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- **MINOR DECOY** This program allows law enforcement agencies to use persons under 20 years of age as decoys for the purpose of purchasing alcoholic beverages from licensed premises. The use of underage decoys to check whether licensees are selling alcohol to minors can show a dramatic drop in the illegal activity. Any person who sells alcohol to the minor decoy is arrested (either cited or booked) for selling alcohol to a minor (a violation of Section 25658(a) Business and Professions Code).
- **SHOULDER TAP** is a common method used by persons under age 21 to solicit a person to purchase and furnish them with alcoholic beverages. The Shoulder Tap Program is an enforcement program that ABC and local law enforcement agencies use to detect and deter shoulder tap activity. During the program, a minor decoy solicits adults outside ABC licensed stores to buy the minor alcohol. Any person seen furnishing alcohol to the minor decoy is arrested (either cited or booked) for furnishing alcohol to a minor (a violation of Section 25658(a) Business and Professions Code).

Other operations such as Juvenile Party Patrols, Fair Patrols, and Retail Operating Standards Task Force (ROSTF) may also be conducted to address specific problems.

The Ridgecrest Police Department, allied agencies, and ABC believe that aggressive enforcement mixed with public education will successfully limit the access of alcohol to minors and improve the quality of life in Ridgecrest.

Prepared By: Sgt. Justin Dampier